
History of Hanover County Potential Research Topics

List of areas that should be reviewed and data collected before formulating the chronological publication.

Topics:

1) Agriculture

- a) **17th century**
 - i) **tobacco economy, good tobacco land**
 - ii) **impact of tobacco culture upon Native lands**
 - iii) **livestock and beginning of transition to grains**
 - iv) **rural life**
 - v) **labor system (indentured servants, then slaves)**
 - vi) **development of plantation economy**
 - vii) **Nicholas Meriwether of Jamestown [1st hook into the 2007 celebration]**
- b) **18th century**
 - i) **Transition to grains**
 - ii) **rural life**
- c) **19th century**
 - i) **Edmund Ruffin/innovations/revitalization of worn-out soil**
 - ii) **pre- and post-Civil War agricultural economy**
 - iii) **breaking up of large holdings into smaller ones**
 - iv) **rural life**
- d) **20th century**
 - i) **small farms, transportation of produce to urban communities**
 - ii) **truck farming**
 - iii) **rural life**
 - iv) **WPA projects in Hanover and records generated**
 - v) **Transition to bedroom community**

2) Transportation

- a) **Waterborne**
 - i) **17th, 18th, 19th, 20th centuries**
- b) **Overland**
 - i) **public roads**
 - ii) **impact upon commerce and trade**
 - iii) **use in westward migration, spread of settlement**
- c) **Stage travel**
 - i) **18th century**
 - ii) **19th century**
- d) **Ferries**
- e) **Steamboats**

- f) **Railroad**
 - g) **Modern vehicular**
 - ii) **Road systems**
 - (1) **Introduction of paving**
 - (2) **Highways**
 - iii) **I-95 as catalyst for change**
- 3) Urban history**
- a) **Hanover Courthouse community**
 - b) **Hanovertown**
 - c) **Ashland**
 - d) **Mechanicsville**
 - e) **Crossroads communities**
 - f) **Hanover as Richmond region bedroom community**
- 4) Commercial/industrial development**
- a) **Colonial [17th and 18th c]**
 - i) **grist and sawmills**
 - ii) **blacksmith shops**
 - iii) **mercantile establishments**
 - iv) **wheelwrights**
 - v) **carriagemakers**
 - vi) **tailors**
 - vii) **doctors, apothecaries**
 - viii) **iron manufacturing proposal (1662 Langston map)**
 - b) **19th century**
 - i) **grist and saw mills**
 - ii) **artisans**
 - iii) **mercantile establishments**
 - iv) **coach and carriage works**
 - v) **professionals such as doctors and lawyers**
 - vi) **railroads**
 - c) **Modern**
 - i) **country stores, gas stations, small businesses**
 - ii) **CCC projects?**
- 5) Cultural (17th, 18th, 19th, 20th centuries)**
- a) **horse racing/breeding**
 - b) **newspapers, other publications**
 - c) **county Fairs**
 - d) **circuses**
 - e) **traveling shows**
 - f) **religious revivals**
 - g) **modern period**

- i) recreation
 - i) Sports
 - ii) Parks
- h) local and regional newspapers
- i) lending libraries
- j) theater
 - (1) Barksdale
 - (2) early movie theaters
- g) notable events
 - i) erection of Civil War monument
 - ii) commemorative celebrations (1907?)

6) Religion

- a) Colonial
 - i) Established church – vestry books as source of information
 - ii) the Disestablishment and its aftermath (former state-owned property)
 - iii) Dissenting sects
 - (1) Presbyterians
 - (2) Baptists
 - (3) Methodists
 - (4) Quakers
 - iv) Parsons Cause
- b) 19th century
 - i) religious revivals
 - ii) African-American congregations
- c) modern churches/congregations

7) Government

- a) Courthouse community
- b) the assembly: burgesses from Hanover, council members
- c) Court system
 - i) Colonial
 - (1) Vestry (quasi-governmental authorities, many functions)
 - (2) Justices
 - ii) early national
 - iii) post Civil War
 - iv) modern
- d) local military protection: colonial, 19th century
- e) elections
 - i) colonial period
- f) ii) post-Revolutionary period
 - iii) post-Civil War
- g) Institution of Board of Supervisors system
 - i) evolution to modern government

- h) **post offices**
- i) **law enforcement (sheriffs, patrollers, modern)**
- j) **tobacco inspection system**
- k) **social services**
 - i) **colonial welfare system via church**
 - ii) **post-Rev. Overseers of the Poor and Poorhouses**
- l) **public utilities**
- m) **Juvenile Correction Center**

8) Education

- a) **Church (colonial)**
- b) **Old field schools**
- c) **Public education – pre- and post-Civil War**
- d) **Higher education**
- e) **Integration**

9) Health

- a) **Epidemics**
 - i) **Small pox**
 - ii) **Cholera**
 - iii) **Influenza**
- b) **Doctors**
- c) **medical centers**

10) Civic and Social Organizations

- a) **Masons**
- b) **Sons of the Confederate Veterans, UDC**
- c) **APVA**
- d) **Hanover Historical Society**
- e) **Morality groups**
 - i) **Abolitionists**
 - ii) **Temperance**
- f) **KKK**
- g) **Modern**
 - i) **Ruritan**
 - ii) **Elk**
 - iii) **Etc.**

11) Travel-related businesses

- a) **Taverns**
- b) **Inns**
- c) **Restaurants**

- d) **Hotels**
- e) **King's Dominion**

Peoples:

12)Native Americans

- a) **Pre-contact**
- b) **Colonial**
- c) **Reservations**
- d) **Indian slaves and servants**
- e) **Natives' contributions to society**

13)African-American

- a) **Enslaved**
- b) **Freedmen**
- c) **Emancipation – local examples**
- d) **Civil rights**
- e) **Gabriel's Insurrection**
- f) **Jim Crow laws**
- g) **Africans/African Americans' contributions to society – 17th through 20th century**

14)Immigrants

- a) **Scots-Irish**
- b) **African**
- c) **Czech**
- d) **Outmigration from Hanover west**

15)Notables

16)Individuals

- a) **Well documented lives illustrative of life in Hanover**

Notable Events

17)Formation of the county

Bacon's Rebellion

18)Revolutionary War

- a) Patrick Henry
 - i) Parsons Cause
 - ii) Gunpowder Incident
- b) Thomas Nelson
 - i) End of war
- c) Amblers of Jamestown
- d) The Great Rebuilding

19)War of 1812

20)Civil War

- a) Homefront
- b) Units
- c) 1862 Campaign
- d) 1864 Campaign
- e) 1865 End of war

21)Reconstruction

- a) changes in the character of society (no slaves, labor shortages)
- b) impact upon economy
- c) war's impact upon morale, families (changing roles of men, women, children)
- d) recovery and growth
- e) plight of the formerly enslaved

22)World War I

- a) local support for the war effort

23)World War II

- a) local support for the war effort

24)Interstate 95

Primary Documents Requiring Review:

25) Vestry records

26) Mutual Assurance Insurance policies

27) County plat collection

28) William Byrd title book

29) *Herald Progress*

30) *Virginia Gazettes* (colonial)

31) *Richmond Times-Dispatch* (and predecessors)

32) Search for

- a) **useful dissertations, theses, etc.**
- b) **diaries**
- c) **collections of private papers.**

33) Contemporary accounts

34) Census Records

35) Maps

- a) **Fry-Jefferson**
- b) **Thomas Jefferson**
- c) **John Wood**
- d) **Bishop Madison**
- e) **Etc. , and others.**

